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EXAMINER				
PHAM, HUNG Q				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

OFFICEACTIONS@FDML.COM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/021,855

Applicant(s)

BISSON ET AL.

Examiner

HUNG Q. PHAM

Art Unit

2159

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-29, 63, 64, 68-73 and 77-85 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-29, 63, 64, 68-73 and 77-85 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/16/09 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

- Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As argued by applicant (Remarks, Page 9):

Applicant respectfully submits that, based on the above description, in Lipkin, while the SabaSecurityManager appears to include methods for creating and managing security lists; and also appears to extend the ISabaRemote interface which appears to Include get and set methods; the methods of SabaSecurityManager are not called by the methods of ISabaRemote to complete operations. As such, Lipkin does not appear to disclose or render obvious that database-specific methods are called by base methods to complete operations on properties stored in the databases. Claim 24 has been amended to recite that, in the embodiment therein, the database-specific methods are called by the base methods to complete operations on properties stored in the databases.

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

As disclosed by Lipkin, a BDK server provides a supporting framework for business objects (Lipkin, Col. 11- Lines 63-65). The BDK uses beans comprising entity beans and session beans for modeling business data and business processes (Lipkin, Col. 28-Lines 21-38). To support BDK server, a remote interface (ISabaRemote) is defined with setter and getter method, e.g., setCustomAttrVal (String attr, <type> Value) and getCustomAttrVal (String attr)

(Lipkin, Col. 29-Lines 20-39). The BDK provides a Java-based API for managing security (Lipkin, Col. 40-Lines 64-65). A security list is created and managed by SabaSecurityManager. The SabaSecurityManager is extended from ISabaRemote (Col. 42 Lines 14-48). A defined security list is shown in TABLE 8b with ID, name and security level (Lipkin, Col. 44-Lines 55-65).

The Lipkin's teaching as discussed indicates the step of *obtaining a base user class adapted to use a personalization server to access a personalization database*, e.g., a base user class such as ISabaRemote is obtained and is adapted to use a personalization server such as BDK security server to access the a personalization database such as a security list, *wherein said base user class provides an interface to a user application through which properties can be retrieved from and updated in the personalization database using base methods*, e.g., ISabaRemote provides a remote interface to a user application such as a bean as a user application through which users' names as properties can be retrieved and updated from/to security list using setCustomAttrVal (String attr, <type> Value) and getCustomAttrVal (String attr), *and further wherein the access to the personalization database can be carried out independent of the naming convention of data in the personalization database*, e.g., access to security list is carried out independent of naming in the column of TABLE 8b by using String attr, <type> Value.

As taught by Lipkin, A SabaPerson extended from ISabaRemote is defined. The SabaPerson is defined for retrieving and updating database properties such as users' names from/to database table named tpt_person using the defined methods getFullName (), setLastName ()... (Lipkin, Col. 33-Line 55→Col. 34-Line 5 and Col. 12-Lines 46-64). The ISabaRemote is extended from EJBOject (Lipkin, Col. 25-Lines 5-12 and Col. 23-Lines 30-65). The getters and setters for the bean's attributes are also exposed through the remote interface.

A developer must implement these methods by calling the `getAttrVal ()` and `setAttrVal ()` methods in `SabaPlatformobject` (Lipkin, Col. 29-Lines 20-30).

The Lipkin's teaching as discussed indicates the step of *generating a unified user profile by creating an extended user class to extend the base user class*, e.g., by creating `SabaPerson`, `SabaPerson` and `SabaSecurityManager` are combined for accessing database table `tpt_person` and security list, *such that the extended user class inherits the base methods from the base user class for retrieving and updating the properties*, e.g., `SabaPerson` inherits the methods from `ISabaRemote` including `getAttrVal ()` and `setAttrVal ()` methods in `EJBObject` for retrieving and updating properties such as users' names, *and wherein the extended user class further includes external database-specific methods that can retrieve and update properties in an external database*, e.g., the methods `getFullName ()`, `setLastName ()`... in `SabaPerson` are used to retrieve and update properties such as users' names in database table `tpt_person`, *wherein the external user database can use a different naming convention than the personalization database*, e.g., the naming convention in database table `tpt_person` is different from security list at least by column names, *and wherein the database-specific methods are called by the base methods to complete operations on properties stored in the database*, e.g., `getFullName ()` and `setLastName ()` are implemented by calling `getAttrVal ()` and `setAttrVal ()`.

- Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 25-29, 63, 64 and 68-73 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. These claims are unpatentable for at least the reasons as discussed above.

- The Request for Interview has been considered. However, the Interview would not advance the prosecution at this time, e.g., a response has been filed with amended claims.

The applicant's representative is respectfully invited to telephone the examiner to set up an Interview after receiving the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 24-29 and 77-85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

A patentable process must (1) be tied to a particular apparatus or machine or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or materials) to a different state or thing. See *In re Bilski*, 545 F.3d 943, 88 USPQ2d 1385 (Fed. Cir. 2008). The methods of claims 24-29 and 77-85 are non-statutory in view of *In re Bilski*, e.g., the recited method is not tied to a particular machine or apparatus, or it transforms a particular article into a different state or thing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 24, 63, 68, 77 and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 24 was amended and the amended limitations, i.e., *generating a unified user profile by creating an extended user class to extend the base user class...*, were not described in the specification. In view of the Specification, UUP is created by merging existing user property data and personalization data (Specification, Paragraph 0023). The purpose of creating an extended user class from a base user class is for accessing the merging data and not for generating UUP. The examiner respectfully suggests the applicant amending the claims in such a way to reasonably convey the invention.

Claims 63, 68 and 77 are rejected for at least the reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 24.

Regarding claim 79, the claimed limitations *explicit properties are stored in the external user database and implicit properties are stored in the personalization database* was not described in the Specification. The definition of explicit and implicit properties is defined by method implementation as disclosed in the Specification (Paragraph 0039) and not by storing method as recited in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 24, 63 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 24, the clause *the databases* at line 20 references to other items in the claim. It is unclear what item is being referenced.

Claims 63 and 68 are rejected for at least the reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 24.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 24-29, 63, 64, 68-73 and 77-85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Lipkin [USP 6,721,747 B2].

Regarding claims 24, 63, 68 and 77, Lipkin teaches a method, program and system for generating a unified user profile for providing to a user or application transparent access to a personalization database and an external user database, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a base user class adapted to use a personalization server to use a personalization database, wherein said base user class provides an interface to a user application through which properties can be retrieved from and updated in the personalization database using base methods, and further wherein the access to the personalization database can be carried out independent of the naming convention of data in the personalization database (As disclosed by Lipkin, a BDK server provides a supporting framework for business objects (Lipkin, Col. 11- Lines 63-65). The BDK uses beans comprising entity beans and session beans for modeling business data and business processes (Lipkin, Col. 28-Lines 21-38). To support BDK server, a remote interface (ISabaRemote) is defined with setCustomAttrVal (String attr, <type> Value) and getCustomAttrVal (String attr) methods (Lipkin, Col. 29-Lines 20-39). The BDK provides a Java-based API for managing security (Lipkin, Col. 40-Lines 64-65). A security list is created and managed by SabaSecurityManager. The SabaSecurityManager is extended from ISabaRemote (Col. 42 Lines 14-48). A defined security list is shown in TABLE 8b with ID, name and security level (Lipkin, Col. 44-Lines 55-65). The Lipkin's teaching as discussed indicates the step of *obtaining a base user class adapted to use a personalization server to access a personalization database*, e.g., a base user class such as ISabaRemote is obtained and is adapted to use a personalization server such as BDK security server to access the a personalization database such as a security list, *said base user class provides an interface to a user application through which properties can be retrieved from and updated in the personalization database using base methods*, e.g.,

ISabaRemote provides a remote interface to a user application such as a bean as a user application through which users' names as properties can be retrieved and updated from/to security list using setCustomAttrVal (String attr, <type> Value) and getCustomAttrVal (String attr), the access to the personalization database can be carried out independent of the naming convention of data in the personalization database, e.g., access to security list is carried out independent of naming in the column of TABLE 8b by using String attr, <type> Value);

generating a unified user profile by creating an extended user class to extend the base user class such that the extended user class inherits the base methods from the base user class, for retrieving and updating the properties, and wherein the extended user class further includes external database-specific methods that can retrieve and update properties in an external user database, wherein the external user database can use a different naming convention than the personalization database, and wherein the database-specific methods are called by the base methods to complete operations on properties stored in the databases (As taught by Lipkin, A SabaPerson extended from ISabaRemote is defined. The SabaPerson is defined for retrieving and updating database properties such as users' names from/to database table named tpt_person using the defined methods getFullName (), setLastName ()... (Lipkin, Col. 33-Line 55→Col. 34-Line 5 and Col. 12-Lines 46-64). The ISabaRemote is extended from EJBObject (Lipkin, Col. 25-Lines 5-12 and Col. 23-Lines 30-65). The getters and setters for the bean's attributes are also exposed through the remote interface. A developer must implement these methods by calling the getAttrVal () and setAttrVal () methods in SabaPlatformobject (Lipkin, Col. 29-Lines 20-30). The Lipkin's teaching as discussed indicates the step of *generating a unified user profile by creating an extended user class to extend the base user class, e.g., by creating SabaPerson, SabaPerson and SabaSecurityManager are combined for accessing database table tpt_person and security list, such that the extended user class inherits the base methods from the base user class for retrieving and updating the properties, e.g., SabaPerson inherits the methods from ISabaRemote including getAttrVal () and setAttrVal () methods in EJBObject for retrieving and updating*

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properties such as users' names, *and wherein the extended user class further includes external database-specific methods that can retrieve and update properties in an external database, e.g., the methods* `getFullName ()`, `setLastName ()`... in `SabaPerson` are used to retrieve and update properties such as users' names in database table `tpt_person`, *wherein the external user database can use a different naming convention than the personalization database, e.g., the naming convention in database table `tpt_person` is different from security list at least by column names, and wherein the database-specific methods are called by the base methods to complete operations on properties stored in the database, e.g.,* `getFullName ()` and `setLastName ()` are implemented by calling `getAttrVal ()` and `setAttrVal ()`);

wherein the unified user profile allows the user application to access data in the personalization database and the external user database independent of whether the accessed data is in the personalization database or the external user database (The combined `SabaPerson` and `SabaSecurityManager` allows a bean to access data in security list and database table `tpt_person` via namespaces in getter and setter methods independent of whether accessed data such as an accessed user's name is in security list or database table `tpt_person`);

wherein the extended user class uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to properties of said data in said personalization database such that the property set differentiates multiple properties that share a single property name (The `SabaPerson` uses a property set such as `getAttrVal ()` and `setAttrVal ()` methods. The `getAttrVal ()` and `setAttrVal ()` methods give namespace qualifications to column names of security list via `addMember` and `findSecurityListByName` methods in `SabaSecurityManager` such that multiple properties that share a single property name are differentiated. For example, when `getAttrVal ()` is called for a particular name in the security list, `getAttrVal` will call `findSecurityListByName` method in `SabaSecurityManager`. The string name is a namespace qualification to names in security list. The string name is passed to the `findSecurityListByName` to find a name within plurality of names that share a column name in the security list); and

further wherein said properties comprise getter and setter properties (e.g., getAttrVal () has getter property and setAttrVal () methods has setter property); and

(e) obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said personalization database and said external user database (Lipkin, Col. 38-Lines 3-12).

Regarding claims 25, 64 and 69, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claims 24, 63 and 68, Lipkin further discloses the step of *generating transparent read and write access to said external database through the extended user class* (Lipkin, Col. 33-Lines 55-65).

Regarding claims 26 and 70, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claims 25 and 69, Lipkin further discloses the step of *configuring a server to provide said read and write access* (Lipkin, FIG. 5).

Regarding claims 27 and 71, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claims 26 and 68, Lipkin further discloses *said server is the personalization server* (Lipkin, Col. 11- Lines 63-65).

Regarding claims 28 and 72, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claims 24 and 68, Lipkin further discloses *said external user database is selected from the group consisting of legacy databases, corporate databases, and customer databases* (Lipkin, Col. 12-Lines 46-64).

Regarding claims 29 and 73, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claims 24 and 68, Lipkin further discloses *said external user*

database contains data selected from the group consisting of authentication information, user lists, group lists, and group membership (Lipkin, Col. 12-Lines 46-64).

Regarding claim 78, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 77, Lipkin further discloses the step of *determining, by the base method, whether the user property is an explicit or implicit property using reflection* (Lipkin, Col. 34-Lines 50-63).

Regarding claim 79, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 78, Lipkin further discloses *explicit properties are stored in the external user database and implicit properties are stored in the personalization database* (This limitation is examined in light of the Specification and Lipkin teaches implicit and explicit properties are defined by method implementations at Col. 34-Lines 50-63).

Regarding claim 80, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 77, Lipkin further discloses *data store specific methods are created for each property stored in the external user database* (Lipkin, Col. 33-Line 48→Col. 34-Line 5).

Regarding claim 81, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 77, Lipkin further discloses *the data store specific methods include a getter method and a setter method* (Lipkin, Col. 33-Line 48→Col. 34-Line 5).

Regarding claim 82, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 77, Lipkin further discloses *the base method uses a name of the user property as a key to determine whether the data store specific method exists* (Lipkin, Col. 34-Lines 50-63).

Regarding claim 83, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 77, Lipkin further discloses *the data store specific methods follow a naming convention including getPropertyNames and setPropertyNames, wherein PropertyNames is a name of the user property* (Lipkin, Col. 33-Lines 55-65).

Regarding claim 84, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 77, Lipkin further discloses the step of *authenticating data in each of the data stores using a security realm* (Lipkin, Col. 38-Lines 3-12); and *retrieving user information including user name and group property names associated with the user using the security realm* (Lipkin, Col. 38-Lines 14-40).

Regarding claim 85, Lipkin teaches all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 77, Lipkin further discloses the step of *registering the unified user profile with the personalization server* (Lipkin, Col. 19-Lines 20-26); and *enabling server page tags to be used with the unified user profile* (Lipkin, Col. 35-Lines 10-32).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG Q. PHAM whose telephone number is 571-272-4040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAMES K. TRUJILLO can be reached on 571-272-3677. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/HUNG Q. PHAM/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2159

HUNG Q. PHAM
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2159

September 25, 2009